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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1. Project Title: Anaconda Sporting Club Indoor Range

2. Type of Proposed Action:

Members of the Anaconda Sporting Club (ASC) propose to develop an ADA compliant, indoor shooting range, including a structure, equipment, and HVAC system.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

The Anaconda Sporting Club proposed indoor shooting range is located in Anaconda, Montana, two blocks north of Highway 1, at 1020 E Commercial Ave, Anaconda, MT, 59711, Lat. 46.1282, Long. -112.9387, Section 2, Township 4 North, Range 11 West.

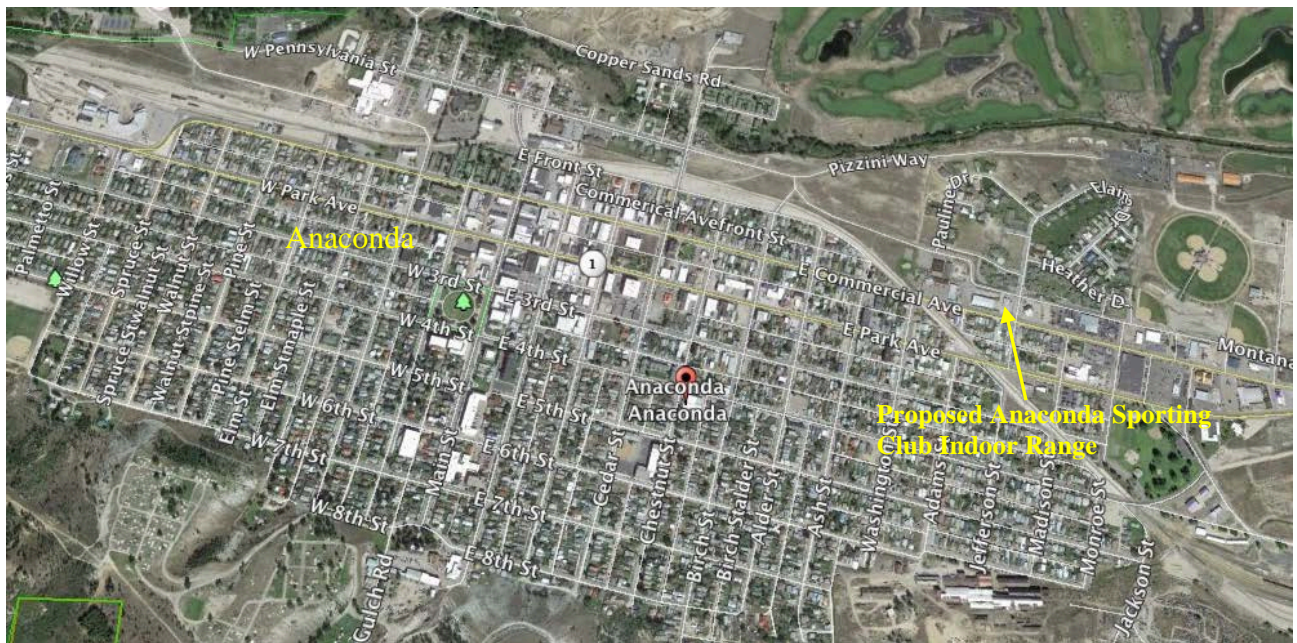


Figure 1. Location of Proposed Anaconda Sporting Club Indoor Range, Anaconda, Montana



Figure 2. Proposed Anaconda Sporting Club Indoor Shooting Range

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA 87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) and MCA 87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

To be eligible for grant assistance, a private shooting club or a private organization:

- (a)(i) Shall accept in its membership any person who holds or is eligible to hold a Montana hunting license and who pays club or organization membership fees;*
- (ii) May not limit the number of members;*
- (iii) May charge a membership fee not greater than the per-member share of the club's or organization's reasonable cost of provision of services, including establishment, improvement, and maintenance of shooting facilities and other membership services; and*
- (iv) Shall offer members occasional guest privileges at no cost to the member or invited guest and shall make a reasonable effort to hold a public sight-in day each September, when the general public may use the shooting range for a day-use fee or at no cost; or*
- (b) Shall admit the general public for a reasonable day-use fee.*

5. Need for the Action(s):

Anaconda currently has no indoor facility, which allows for shooting sports education above an air rifle level. Multiple organizations would benefit from the ability to practice shooting sports indoors, including youth organizations, military and law enforcement, and the general public. The facility would be useful for firearms safety classes, hunter's safety classes, youth shooting competitions, and numerous other events, which are otherwise difficult to conduct during the long winter season in the area. The cost of independently building a community shooting sports facility without grant support makes the project prohibitively expensive for the

local community. A FWP Range grant would make the project possible and the community as a whole would benefit from it for years to come.

6. Objectives for the Action(s):

The objective of the proposed project is to develop a 25-yard, 5 lane, indoor shooting range in Anaconda, Montana, including shooting equipment, HVAC and air filtration system, lighting, electrical fixtures, and necessary property improvements.

7. Project Size: estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

The proposed project would involve less than one-quarter acre of the leased property.

8. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The ASC proposed indoor shooting range would be located on 2,600 square feet of leased private land. The ASC entered into a 10-year lease agreement with APOC World, LLC in 2016 to lease the property. The property is not located within a floodplain and there are no permanent surface waters or wetlands on the property. The indoor shooting range will offer shooting opportunities for rifle, pistol, archery, cowboy action, long-range rifle, and combat pistol.

9. Description of Project:

The Anaconda Sporting Club is proposing the creation of an indoor range in Anaconda, MT. The requested grant funds will be used to support the creation of the indoor range, including the cost of building the structure, purchasing the necessary range equipment, such as bullet traps, retrieval systems, shooting stalls, and plating, and for the HVAC system required for safe operation. The end result will be a five-lane indoor range, which can operate safely year round, and can accommodate archery, air, pistol, rifle, and shotgun up to 25 yards, from a standing, seated, or prone firing position. There will be an ADA compliant fixed firing position as well. The ASC will provide funds, labor, material, and other contributions to make the project possible. There are currently no improvements on the proposed range property, so all improvements would be included in the project and completed during the project period.

▪ Design, engineering, architect	\$ 2,400
▪ Labor-in-kind	\$ 24,860
▪ Equipment- Purchased (ex traps)	\$ 83,250
▪ Equipment rental	\$ 1,000
▪ Concrete- Labor and Materials	\$ 17,000
▪ Gravel- Labor and Materials	\$ 500
▪ Electrical- Labor and Materials	\$ 9,000
▪ Structural /Replacement/Roof/HVAC	\$ 40,000
▪ Lumber Package	\$ 1,000
▪ Other Costs	\$ 2,178
Total Project Budget	\$181,188
Total Funding Requested from FWP	\$ 90,594

10. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:
None

Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
N/A		

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$90,594

11. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

The ASC proposed indoor shooting range would be located on 2,600 square feet of leased private land. The ASC entered into a 10-year lease agreement with APOC World, LLC in 2016 to lease the property. This will be a private range with an annual membership fee of \$55 for individuals and \$75 for a family, though the range will open to guests and visitors with a day use fee. The ASC anticipates hosting approximately 12 events each year and at least 6 organizations, including but not limited to: 4-H Shooting Sports, High School shooting and archery programs, various law enforcement agencies, National Guard, FWP Hunter Education, Boy Scouts, and US Army JROTC.

12. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Because the Anaconda Shooting Club is a nonprofit private shooting club for members, there has been no public involvement in the planning process. Proposed range development proposals have been discussed with the club members and the associated project vendors and contractors.

13. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

14. Names, Address, and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Michael Noyce Merino, 1020 E. Commercial Avenue, Anaconda, MT 59711. (406) 596-0298.

15. Other Pertinent Information:

The Anaconda Sporting Club is a nonprofit private shooting club. The closest shooting range providing similar shooting opportunities is in Anaconda, Montana, 20 miles from the ASC Proposed Indoor Range.

Shooting range applications require the participating governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: January 29, 2016.

PART II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A, the Proposed Alternative, and Alternative B, the No Action Alternative, were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in Part I, paragraph 9 (Description of Project): to develop a 25-yard, indoor shooting range for the Anaconda Shooting Club in Anaconda, Montana. There are beneficial consequences to acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative**.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Range Development Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active shooting range without the proposed improvements. The no action alternative would have no significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. The range will continue on with present conditions. Land use would remain the same.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the

proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

None. Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There was no other alternative that were deemed reasonably available, or prudent. Neither the **Proposed Alternative** nor the **No Action Alternative** would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

List and explain proposed mitigating measures (stipulations): None

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmentally sensitive areas.

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		#4
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		#7
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		#8
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		#9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		#11

2. & 5. There are no delineated wetlands and no natural water sources within the area proposed for development. No critical wildlife habitat would be affected. The proposed indoor shooting range is

located in an area previously disturbed by commercial development so it is unlikely that any resident or transient wildlife would be affected during construction.

4. The proposed indoor shooting range will be constructed on a small parcel within a developed area of Anaconda so the proposed project will not change the overall abundance and diversity of plant species within the area.

7. The proposed project will cause limited displacement of soils but the developments will not substantially effect geological features or establish new erosion patterns. Soil disruption for this site is localized. Erosion control measures will be in effect and disturbed area will be reseeded.

8. Minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions would be created by construction equipment during construction. However, the construction time is short and human effects will be temporary.

9. This project uses no federal funds nor does it take place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

11. The property is located in an area previously disturbed by commercial development so the proposed project will have no additional impact on the aesthetics of the property.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		#1
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7

8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

1. The proposed indoor shooting range is located within a commercially developed area and will have no impact on the social structures and cultural diversity of the community.

7. The proposed developments will increase shooting opportunities within the community.

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the projects reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being implemented are already on an existing range or altered areas that together with the insignificant environmental effects of the proposed action, indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative.

The Anaconda Shooting Club's Proposed Alternative, to develop an indoor shooting range in Anaconda, is supported by its members and the public. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the Proposed Alternative (A) for the improvements as outlined in Part I, Paragraph 9.

PART V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? Individually, the proposed actions have minor impacts. However, it was determined that there are no significant or potentially significant cumulatively impacts. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative; therefore, an EIS is not required.

PART VI. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

- Michael Noyce Merino, 1020 E. Commercial Avenue, Anaconda, MT 59711. (406) 596-0298.
- MT Fish Wildlife and Parks

EA prepared by:

Andrea Darling, Darling Natural Resource Consulting, Montana City, MT 59634

Date Completed:

April 25, 2016

Describe public involvement, if any:

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's web site and through a legal ad in the *Montana Standard, Butte, MT* announcing a public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and comment period.